

CASE STUDY / K-12 CHARTER SCHOOL / WYOMING

When the Wi-Fi Goes Down, So Does the *Greenhouse*

How a tiny Wyoming charter school found a technology partner who actually understood what they were trying to do.

AT A GLANCE

CLIENT

Prairie View Community
School

LOCATION

Near Cheyenne, Wyoming

INDUSTRY

K-12 Charter School

SERVICES

Wireless · Network
Segmentation · VoIP · E-Rate
· Managed IT

PARTNER

RUCKUS Networks

HEADLINE RESULT

Reliable Wi-Fi across every
building

01 THE CLIENT

A school built around *doing*

Prairie View Community School sits about an hour north of Cheyenne, in a town of roughly 200 people. It was the first state-sponsored charter school in Wyoming, and it does not teach the way most schools teach.

Learning here is project-based and physical. Students build and troubleshoot their own circuits. They run an aquaponics system that has to stay alive through a weekend. They own and operate a student-managed laser-engraving business: quoting the job, cutting it, and getting it out the door.

It is the kind of curriculum that only works when the technology underneath it works. In a school like this, a dropped connection isn't an inconvenience. It's a class that doesn't happen.

02 THE CHALLENGE

An aging patchwork nobody *owned*

What Prairie View inherited wasn't really a network. It was a stack of decisions made years apart by people who were no longer there. Wi-Fi that worked in one room and quit in the next. Internet that never reached every building on campus. Landline phones that had become less a communication system than a safety risk. Cameras and door access hardware already past end of life.

There was no IT department to hand any of it to. Director **Bryce Cushman** wore the IT hat on top of running the school, without the hours or the specialized knowledge the job actually required.

WHERE IT SHOWED

During a student-led demonstration of an automated greenhouse (a system the students had designed and built themselves), the connection dropped and took the demonstration down with it.

Underneath all of it sat E-Rate, the federal program that could fund much of the fix, wrapped in a paperwork and compliance process that quietly assumes you have someone on staff to manage it.

03 FINDING THE RIGHT PARTNER

A first conversation about *goals*

Prairie View was referred to Pine Cove for help with E-Rate. The first conversation went somewhere else entirely. Not to a product list or a quote, but to what the school was actually trying to build.

“

The first conversation wasn't about products or services. They wanted to understand what we were trying to accomplish as a school. I'd never had a technology company ask me those questions before.

BRYCE CUSHMAN · DIRECTOR, PRAIRIE VIEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL

04 WHAT CHANGED

One network, *rebuilt*

Pine Cove designed and implemented a new network on RUCKUS technology, chosen for its performance, its cost, and its E-Rate compatibility.

01 A full wireless refresh

New RUCKUS wireless across every building, engineered for consistent coverage instead of room-by-room luck.

02 Student and staff segmentation

Separate networks for student and staff traffic, so classroom activity and school operations no longer share a lane.

03 Landlines replaced with VoIP

The aging phone system retired and rebuilt on VoIP, closing the safety gap the old landlines had become.

04 E-Rate, handled end to end

Pine Cove guided Prairie View through the entire E-Rate paperwork and compliance process.

05 Outsourced IT, ongoing

Monitoring, security guidance, Google Admin support, hardware recommendations, and staff training.

05 THE RESULTS

Infrastructure that finally holds *steady*

100%

of buildings covered by
consistent, reliable Wi-Fi

0

landlines remaining. The phone
system is fully VoIP

E-Rate

funding secured, with
compliance handled end to end

The fourth result doesn't have a number attached to it: confidence. At the next community showcase, the automated greenhouse ran exactly the way the students built it to run, with sensors feeding a dashboard they had coded themselves, and a connection that never once dropped.

06 LOOKING AHEAD

The next stretch of *trail*

The next phase is security: new cameras and door access hardware to replace the end-of-life equipment, once funding is finalized.

Beyond that, the conversation has turned to AI, specifically how a school like Prairie View adopts it thoughtfully. The shared goal is a model where AI works as a thought partner for students, not a shortcut around the thinking.

Ready to *chat*?

Let's talk about what your organization is trying to accomplish, before we talk about products.

[Schedule Your Free IT Assessment](#)

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